

### REMARKS

Claims 43-63 and 73-77 stand rejected. Claim 75 has been cancelled in view of the Examiner's objection thereto. Claims 43-63 and 73-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Verma et al. in view of Chandler et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner admits that the primary reference does not teach absorption compositions comprising 20-80 weight percent alkali metal hydroxides, alkali metal earth hydroxides or mixtures thereof. The Examiner relies on the secondary reference to Chandler et al. to provide such teaching.

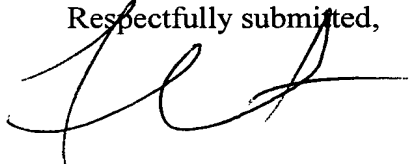
In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, the cited reference or combination of references must teach or suggest all the claim recitations. *See In re Wilson*, 165 U.S.P.Q. 494 (C.C.P.A. 1970). Second, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings in order to arrive at the claimed invention. *See In re Oetiker*, 24 U.S.P.Q.2d 1443, 1446 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d at 1074; *In re Skinner*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1788, 1790 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1986). Third, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. *See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* § 2143.

The Applicants maintain that such criteria have not been met by the Examiner. The absorption fluids of the invention and those of Chandler et al. are vastly different. Specifically, a heteropoly complex anion of a transition metal element is not the same as using a very small amount of an amine. There is no teaching or suggestion in either of the references to make such a modification. Additionally the only motivation for such modification to one skilled in the art is Applicants' own specification. Such is not allowed under the patent law. Finally, the compounds are so different there is no reasonable expectation of success. Applicants thus respectfully request that the §103 rejection be withdrawn.

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Filed: December 11, 2003  
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Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and the same is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



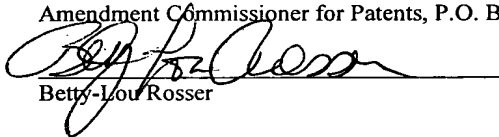
F. Michael Sajovec  
Registration No. 31,793

**USPTO Customer No. 20792**  
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec  
Post Office Box 37428  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627  
Telephone: 919/854-1400  
Facsimile: 919/854-1401

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Betty-Lou Rosser